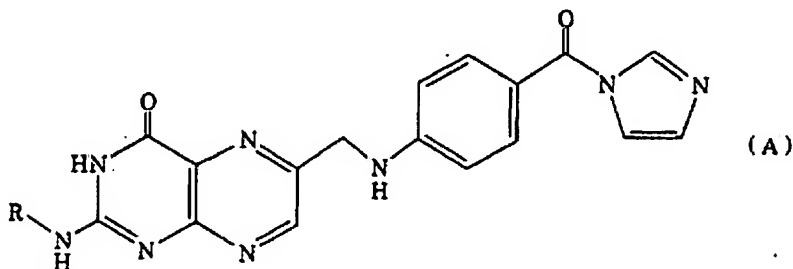
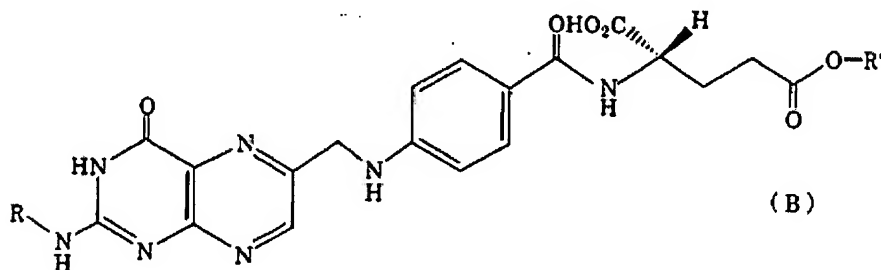


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

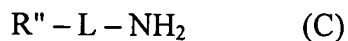
1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a folic acid-amide compound comprising: a) reacting an imidazolidine represented by the following formula (A):



wherein R represents a protecting group for amino acid and is an amino acid protecting group used in peptide synthesis, with  $\gamma$ -lower alkyl L-glutamate in an organic solvent in the presence of an organic strong base to form a  $\gamma$ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate which is represented by the following formula (B):

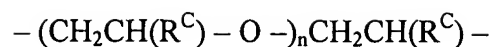


wherein R has the same definition as in formula (A), and R' represents a lower alkyl; and  
b) reacting a  $\gamma$ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the formula (B) with an amine compound of the following formula (C):

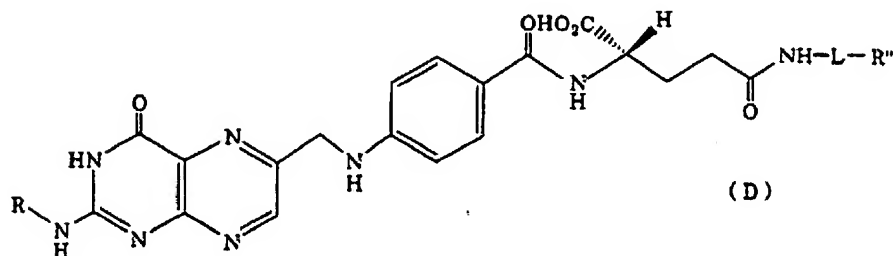


wherein R'' represents a group that forms a covalent bond with a functional group of an organic compound and which has no adverse effect on the binding of folic acid to a folic acid recognizing receptor amino, substituted disulfide, acetylene, or azide, and

L represents a valence bond, C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>5</sub> alkylene or an oligo- or poly-(oxyalkylene) of the following formula,

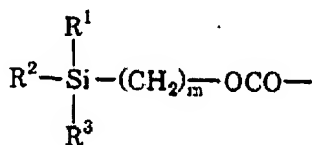


wherein  $\text{R}^C$  represents hydrogen or methyl, and  $n$  is an integer of from 1 - 10,000 to produce a folic acid-~~amine~~amide compound of the following formula (D):



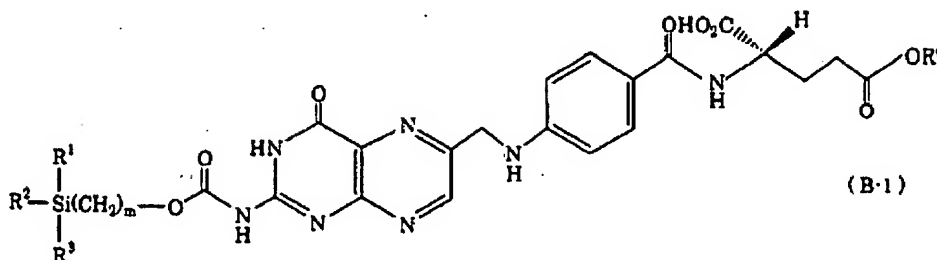
wherein  $\text{R}$  has the same definition as in the above formula (A), and  $\text{L}$  and  $\text{R}''$  have the same definitions as in the above formula (C).

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}$  in the formula (A) is a group represented by the following formula,



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  each independently represents lower alkyl, and  $m$  represents an integer of from 1 - 4.

3. (Previously Presented) A Gamma-lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the following formula (B-1):



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  each independently represents lower alkyl; m represents an integer of 1 - 4; and  $R'$  represents lower alkyl.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein R represents benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl, or p-toluenesulfonyl.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 2, wherein R represents trimethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, 2-trimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 3-trimethylsilylpropoxycarbonyl, 2-ethyltrimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 2-tert-dimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, triethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, or 2-triethylsilylethoxycarbonyl.